

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/650,096	DEAN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Amy J. Sterling	3632	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/27/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,4-18,20-36 and 38-42.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

***Notice of Allowance***

This is the Notice of Allowance for application number 10/650,096 Pole connector Assembly and Method for Racks and Shelving, filed on 8/26/03. Claims are allowed.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In claim 1, line 9, after "second end" and before "to the second pole", [coupled] has been deleted and insertable has been added.

In claim 12, line 12, after "second end" and before "to the second pole", [coupled] has been deleted and insertable has been added.

In claim 24, line 3 after "an insert" and before "dimensioned", having a deflectable portion, the insert being has been added.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Chris Austin on 2/3/06.

### ***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

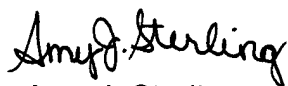
The prior art of record does not teach an insert dimensioned to be received in a first pole section, having an aperture and a deflectable portion and a deformable fastener having a first end insertable into the aperture, the fastener having at least one surface positioned to contact or which is engageable with the aperture to limit deflection of the deflectable portion of the insert to less than that needed to permit removal of the insert from the first pole section, the fastener having a second end which is insertable into the second pole section. The prior art also does not teach the method of assembling a pole with the steps of inserting a first insert into an end of a first pole section, the first insert having at least one inwardly-deflectable projection, inserting a fastener having at least one deflectable projection into the aperture of the first insert, contacting a portion of the fastener with the at least one inwardly deflectable projection of the insert, limiting inward deflection of the inwardly-deflectable projection of the insert with the portion of the fastener and coupling the fastener to a second pole section wherein inserting the fastener includes deflecting the projection of the fastener.

### ***Conclusion***

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Amy J. Sterling at telephone number 571-272-6823. The examiner can normally be reached (M-F 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m.). If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Olszewski at 571-272-6788. The fax machine number for the -Technology center is 571-273-8300 (formal amendments) or 571-273-6823 (informal amendments/communications). Any inquiry of a general -nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Technology Center receptionist at 571-272-3600.



Amy J. Sterling

2/6/06